

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## YM - YW STUDENT CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION - international interchange

On January 5-7, representatives of Student Christian Associations from all over Japan gathered at the Tokyo Joshikaikan (a Buddhist girls' dormitory) to discuss three significant problems on three levels of student interchange: 1) National cooperation: 2) International exchange of ideas through letters: and 3) World-wide student participation in conferences.

27 of these students were the members of the National Student YMCA Committee. 46 were presidents of Local Student YWCAs all over the nation. A few guests came as representatives of the Student Movement of the United Church of Christ in Japan.

As background it may be interesting to note that although student Y activities were rather weak in the years immediately after the war, they have been growing stronger in numbers and significance, so that now the Student Christian activities on many campuses are recognized as being outstanding in importance.

1) National Cooperation is a goal which has been desired by many leaders who work at the national leadership level. It would without doubt add a unity of impact and effectiveness to the Christian witness on student life as a whole and on specific local campuses. Already the YM and the YW student groups in many localities work together as one group. However, on a national level there are still the two completely separate and independant parent organizations which make one student organization a practical difficulty.



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Further, the Nihon Kirisuto Kyodan (United Church of Christ in Japan) has a strong and active Student Christian Movement which is closely tied to the program of the local churches. Students who are active in the Kyodan student program often are not active in the YM-YW program, and sometimes students in the Student Ys are not even members of a church.

To further complicate the situation each of these three groups have annual national "Summer Training Schools" and the Student Ys have six local "Summer Training Schools" which have about one hundred participants in each. The Kyodan group suggested at this student conference that these summer schools should cooperate directly together. However, it seems too complicated to work out right away. A process of careful thinking and then education on a local level must precede any unification of these groups.

2) International Exchange of ideas through letters has been going on between the student Ys of Japan and the United States during the past year. This was discussed and the possibility of a further answer from Japan was considered. Last February Miss Kiyoko Osuzu and Mr. Tatsuo Hamabe the Japan Student Y co-chairmen wrote among other things: ".....Again the hydrogen bomb has brought great fear to us. As you may know, the experiment of the hydrogen bomb carried out by the United States of America in the Pacific Ocean last March, brought great suffering to twenty-three Japanese fishermen, one of whom later died, leaving his wife and children. And still now, people in Japan are living in great fear..... We want to pray and do our best together with you, to remove this fear and uncertainty from our minds. In this connection, we remember with great gratitude the message from the United Student Christian Council in the U.S. regarding this matter which was a source of great encouragement to us....."

.....It is not a too optimistic understanding of the present international situation, but our unfortunate war experiences that make us oppose the present rearmament and hydrogen bomb experiments. Today Japan is at the crucial turning point where she will go either forward or backward. This is why we need the guidance of our Lord and your hearty prayers as we strive hard to establish a new Japanese society....."

An answer to this letter was written last September by Miss Linda Bacon and Paul Schradang, Co-chairmen for the National Student Council YM-YWCA of the USA. They say in part: "....We confess our failure as Christians to search ardently for all possible ways to reduce world tensions rather than acquiescing in the building up of armaments. We know that nations must use instruments of power but that it is the responsibility of all persons to find and support ways to reduce causes of world tensions, especially in this day of weapons which can destroy all the achievements of civilization.

"We admit our failures and unite in the affirmation of the ultimate power and justice of God's will. We pledge ourselves to







support actively measures for international disarmament; to work for the outlawing of war; to oppose further United States action influencing Japan to rearm; to support the statement in the Report of the World Council of Churches on International Affairs (referring to atomic weapons) '...that nations carry on tests only within their respective territories, or if elsewhere, only by international clearance and agreement.'.....

"We want you to know that we are overwhelmed by the terrible burden which our country bears to use its tremendous resources and power responsibly. Both you and we are called to work for a clearer understanding of God's purpose for our common life. We each have only a partial understanding of God's truth because of the limitations of our own historic settings. We can help each other. Already, by your communication you have helped us....."

3) World-wide Student Participation in the World Student Christian Federation Convention to be held in Germany this coming summer was also discussed. Japan can send five delegates. The group decided that in order to insure full Japanese participation in this conference, the Student YMCA and the Student YWCA will take the responsibility to raise enough money to send one delegate each. They will raise this money from their own members. The Convention theme will be "Jesus, the Reconciler". In preparation for participation in this Convention, local groups are already discussing and studying this theme.

#### NEW BIBLE SOCIETY HEAD - passing on of the torch

Rev. Masaki Imaizumi, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Japan Bible Society for the last eleven years, resigned last month at the age of 84. Under his chairmanship the Society worked out its war time and post war problems, became a legal corporation, distributed 18,000,000 Bibles, and published the much acclaimed Colloquial Bible. Rev. Imaizumi is the pastor of a prominent United Church of Christ Church in Tokyo. He has also been elected a life member in the Bible Societies of England and the United States.

His successor is Dr. Shiro Murata, the president of Meiji Gakuin University. Dr. Murata is a graduate of Meiji Gakuin, Princeton, and was the former pastor of a church in Tokyo. In recent years he has been a professor and then the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Meiji Gakuin University. He brings both position and wisdom to this new task.

#### EMIGRANTS WANTED - to begin life anew in South America

The World Council of Churches is seeking 50 Japanese farming families who wish to begin life anew in a farming project on the border between Paraguay and Brazil. This project is the direct outgrowth of a request by the Japanese delegates to the 1954 W.C.C.







Assembly in Evanston for understanding and help on Japan's serious problem of overpopulation. As a result of this request, the WCC was authorized to move into this field of encouraging aid to Japanese migration.

This past fall there were consultations between the South American World Council of Churches Representative, Mr. Andrew Mouravieff; the President of a coffee farming project called CAFE (Compania Americans de Fomento Economico) located on the border between Paraguay and Brazil; and Rev. Kentaro Buma of the W.C.C. office in Japan. As an outgrowth of these consultations, the CAFE President, Mr. Clarence Johnson has requested the WCC office in Japan, (which is Japan Church World Service) to select and despatch 30 Japanese farming families with the greatest possible haste.

These families will be selected for the CAFE project by the Japan Church World Service office in cooperation with the Association of Japanese Overseas Migrants. The families should have many years of farming experience, should have four members able to work under 60 years old, and should be willing to go on a three year contract. They will be given 25 hectares (c.60 acres) on which they can raise coffee, cotton, wheat and produce for family consumption. Each family will be given a comfortable three bedroom house, a barn and a well. Nearby there will be schools and medical care. During the migrants' first year, CAFE will give each family credit in the shops for necessary food, equipment and clothing. They may receive generous terms on travel loans from the newly organized Migration and Colonization Corporation.

Applicants for this W.C.C. sponsored CAFE migration project should apply to the Japan Church World Service office (Kyobunkwan, 2 Ginza 4-chome, Tokyo) immediately. The JCWS will then send the prospective migrant a copy of the CAFE contracts as well as the application forms. These forms must be completed and returned not later than February 10, 1956. After screening and selection by a committee composed of representatives from the Overseas Migrants Association, Japanese Foreign Office, Ministry of Welfare and JCWS, these 50 families will depart to Brazil about March 1, 1956.

In addition to the 50 Japanese families, CAFE has requested World Council to help in placing 82 other families, many of whom are European Russians who have escaped from behind the Iron Curtain.

VITAMINS FOR MINISTERS - "the reality and concern of the world Christian Fellowship"

As an expression of the spirit of giving at Christmas time 2000 cans of vitamins were sent from Church World Service in USA to the Protestant ministers of Japan. These vitamins were repacked by the Japan Church World Service and labeled "These vitamins are an expression of the reality and the concern of the world Christian







ellowship." This gift represented a value of \$4,000. The vitamins were distributed to all pastors that are in some relationship with the National Christian Council of Japan.

KEEP" RECONSTRUCTING - of disaster and reconstruction

Late last fall the lodge of the Kiyosato Educational Experimental Project was completely destroyed by fire. However, this Project has made such a contribution and attracted such national attention that before a month was out more than 1,000,000 had been contributed toward the reconstruction that is soon to take place.

KEEP was established by the untiring efforts of Dr. Paul Busch under the sponsorship of the Nihon Seikokai (Japan Episcopal Church) to demonstrate that the hitherto barren upland country of Japan could be utilized for dairy farming. Although this project met with skepticism at first, it has won national acclaim not only for the technological know-how it has developed but for the influence on the lives of the people in the area of Kiyosato.

Although KEEP was established largely through the support of interested people in the USA and Canada, it has won such support here in Japan that its contribution to future farming methods in this country is quite evident.



